

HEIDI HEITKAMP  
NORTH DAKOTA  
HART SENATE BUILDING 516  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
PH: 202-224-2043  
FAX: 202-224-7776  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-223-4457

<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov>

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY  
BANKING, HOUSING AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

May 21, 2018

Richard Anderson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Amtrak  
60 Massachusetts Avenue NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I write regarding the importance of the Empire Builder, which is a critical transportation option serving families and businesses in several communities in my state of North Dakota.

Long-distance routes provide valuable economic opportunities in North Dakota and the rural communities they serve. Despite outdated equipment, in 2017, there were 454,000 passengers on the Empire Builder, which is an increase in recent years. In North Dakota alone, 103,423 passengers chose this form of transportation to reach their destination.

North Dakotans have reached out to my office to voice their support for this line and express their concern about efforts to reduce daily services for stations located in North Dakota and beyond. Without the Empire Builder, folks in rural communities would be less connected, and could lose the only form of transportation they have access to. Many folks rely on this line to get to a job, see loved ones, and receive medical care. There is a strong need to continue long-distance routes, such as the Empire Builder, and to invest in equipment upgrades that are essential to ensuring traveling by rail remains an attractive option for travelers.

As Amtrak evaluates its national network and long-distance lines, I would like to know:

- Are reductions in daily service on long-distance lines being considered for cost savings?
- How are the increased funds provided to Amtrak as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act being utilized and invested in long-distance lines such as the Empire Builder?

Amtrak is an important lifeline to many in rural America, and I urge you to increase investment and continue supporting daily service for the Empire Builder.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator

BISMARCK OFFICE:  
228 FEDERAL BUILDING  
220 EAST ROSSER AVENUE  
BISMARCK, ND 58501  
PH: 701-258-4648  
FAX: 701-258-1254

DICKINSON OFFICE:  
40 1ST AVENUE WEST  
SUITE 202  
DICKINSON, ND 58601  
PH: 701-225-0974  
FAX: 701-225-3287

FARGO OFFICE:  
306 FEDERAL BUILDING  
657 SECOND AVENUE NORTH  
FARGO, ND 58102  
PH: 701-232-8030 - 1-800-223-4457  
FAX: 701-232-6449

GRAND FORKS OFFICE:  
33 S. 3RD ST., SUITE B  
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201  
PH: 701-775-9601  
FAX: 701-746-1990

MINOT OFFICE:  
105 FEDERAL BUILDING  
100 FIRST STREET S.W.  
MINOT, ND 58701  
PH: 701-852-0703  
FAX: 701-838-8196